



GOOD NEWS

from Good Shepherd Church in Owatonna

Follow Jesus. Share Hope. Live Love.



Heather Gleason Installation Sunday, August 11 at the 10:00AM service

Heather has completed the colloquy process as a Commissioned Minister of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. She will be officially installed as our Preschool Director and Children's Minister, and we rejoice in her continued ministry at Good Shepherd.

We will host a light reception after the service. We look forward to celebrating this occasion with our church family. Congratulations, Heather!

Special Voter's Meeting This Fall

Date and Time to be determined

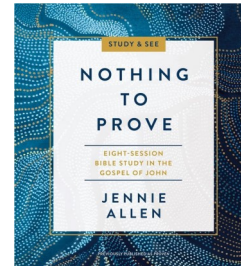
Sometimes matters come up that require a vote of the congregation, and for these reasons we call a special one-topic meeting. The last one we had was in July, when we voted to extend a call to Heather as our Children's Ministry Director and Preschool Director. She has worked at Good Shepherd for over 15 years, but has recently completed the work to become a called worker for the Missouri Synod, and for our congregation. This means, of course, that another LCMS congregation could call her as their worker, but we are very glad that at this time she accepted our call to continue her work here.

Our next special voters' meeting will probably be held in September, and has to do with Redeemer Lutheran Church in Owatonna. As you may know, Redeemer planted Good Shepherd as a mission church forty years ago in celebration of their 100th anniversary as a congregation. In April of 2023 Redeemer's pastor retired, and they have determined that they do not have the ability to call another pastor. In considering the best path for their church, they have voted to pursue a merger with Good Shepherd. Now it's our turn to vote.

Obviously, this matter brings up many questions of property and membership and timeframes. Almost none of those questions currently have firm answers, but they will be answered to the best of our ability at the special voters' meeting this fall. We do expect that the majority of their members would probably become members here with us if both congregations vote "yes."

Redeemer and Good Shepherd have always had a special bond as mother and daughter congregations, and now it appears we may truly join together in ministry for the good of God's Kingdom here in Owatonna.

—Pastor Greg



Fall Women's Bible Study Begins Thursday, September 26 6:30-8:00PM

Join us for "Nothing to Prove", an eight-

week study based on the Gospel of John. Sign up at the Welcome Center by September 8. Materials are \$13, payable at the first class. Questions? Contact Marilee Pfarr:

mpfarr1@charter.net.



New Member Seminar

**Saturday, September 28
from 9AM-2PM**

Are you ready to partner with us in ministry? Learn more about church membership at Good Shepherd and ask Pastor Greg all your questions.

Lunch is included, and child care is provided upon request.

Contact Pastor Greg to learn more:
Greg@GSOwatonna.com.

August 14-16: Floor Refinishing

We need
YOU!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

AUGUST 12: Move pews and chairs out of the Worship Center

AUGUST 20: move pews and chairs back in

Can you help? [Sign up at the Welcome Center](#)



Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered 12-step recovery program for anyone struggling with hurts, hang-ups, and habits of any kind.

It's a safe place to find community and freedom from the issues that are controlling your life.

MONDAYS from 6:00-8:00PM

Questions? Want to Volunteer?

Contact Pastor Dan:

Dan@GSOWatonna.com

Legacy Ministry Fund Luncheon with Kurt Fuhr

Sunday, October 6 at 11:00am

Enjoy a delicious lunch and learn how to develop an estate plan that reflects your wishes. Kurt Fuhr from the LCMS Foundation will share his expertise in legacy gift options and the tax advantages of planned giving.

There will be time to ask all your questions, and even time to meet with Kurt privately if you wish.

RSVP at the Welcome Center, or contact Bill Steinbronn: 507-451-4055

Fall Discipleship Options

It's been said that a student once asked Martin Luther, "What was God doing before He created the world?" Luther responded, "He went into the woods and cut rods with which to punish good-for-nothing questioners!" Ouch...maybe there are some questions better left unasked!

How much do you think about God and creation? We spend a lot of time thinking about how broken our creation is, or about some beautiful parts of creation we see. We spend time wondering about heaven, but what could we learn about God and his desire for us if we focused on creation as he first made it?

Creation is actually God's first act of grace. He didn't need to create, but he chose to. It speaks to God's nature to love! It speaks to his design and how his original plans show us what a love-filled creation could look like. It tells us things about mountains and rivers, trees and animals, and most importantly, men and women! If you'd like to dive into that a little more, please consider joining a discipleship group this fall.

Sign up at the Welcome Center for days/times that you can commit to, and then take advantage of this opportunity to jump into the Scriptures and get to know a group of people on a deeper level for six weeks.

Discipleship groups were the first big change in a series of developments in our discipleship ministry. This spring we added Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-focused 12-Step program that's designed to help people who feel stuck in life. That certainly looks like addictions (habits), but we've also had people join us because they're troubled by trauma or figuring out how to interact with addicts in their lives (hurts), or other behaviors that they know God wants them to move past (hang-ups). If you're curious or know someone who might benefit from it, talk to me more or visit us on a Monday night from 6-8pm.

One recent addition is something we're calling Faithful Conversations. This is a fellowship of Christians who are committed to using God's Word to work through specific, difficult questions in this world—everything from family problems to changes in our society, community, media, etc. The desire is to have a safe place to talk about the things that trouble us, and also consider some of the wisest ways we can speak to others in our community. If this sounds intriguing, I'd be happy to talk to you about it.

It's good to ask questions. The reality is that there are some questions God doesn't answer; that's what Luther was getting at. But we want to encourage our people to ask questions and seek God's Word and his community out to help them work through the difficult questions. I hope some of the communities that are forming here are a blessing to you as we seek to follow after Jesus. —Pastor Dan

LWML District Convention

Sue Simons and Gloria Kenow were Host Committee Convention Chair and Co-Chair of the LWML Women in Mission District Convention in Mankato on June 20-22. Margo Harvieux and Shelby Kuntz were delegates. It was a busy and meaningful event, with over \$15,000 raised for mission grants and projects. Thank you for representing Good Shepherd in such a fabulous way, ladies!



Youth Summer Mission Trips
 In June, 8 youth and 2 adults spent a week at Camp LuWiSoMo in Wisconsin. Youth were buddies to campers with developmental disabilities. It was a fantastic week of fun, patience and learning about others!



July we sent a group of 23 youth and 4 adults on a road trip to Wind River Reservation in Wyoming. We did yard work for locals and spent a lot of time hanging out with them. We were able to ask them questions about their culture and talk about faith. We spent time in beautiful landscapes with wonderful people. A highlight for some was helping make Indian fry bread!



We also had fun stops at Wall Drug, Mount Rushmore, and whitewater rafting in Thermopolis. —*Kelly Gentz, Youth Director*



Wednesday Youth Groups and Confirmation Classes Begin September 11

Grades 5-6: 6:15-7:15PM
Confirmation: 6:30-7:15PM
Grades 7-12: 7:15-8:30PM

Register with the Church Center app or at GoodShepherdOwatonna.com

Confirmation is typically for 7th and 8th graders. Questions about Confirmation? Contact Kelly: Kelly@GSOwatonna.com

Stay in touch: Sign up for Youth text notifications:

Grades 5-6: text @7eg7d7 to 81010

Grades 7-8: text @gsjrhigh to 81010

Grades 9-12: text@gssrhigh to 81010



Mark Your Calendar!
Children's Ministry Events

Sept 3: Start of Preschool

Sept 8: Backpack Blessing and blessing of our Sunday School and Youth Group volunteers

Sept 8: Sunday School Leaders Meeting

Sept 15: First Day of Sunday School

2024-2025 SUNDAY SCHOOL
September 15 - May 18
 Age 3-6th Grade




Sunday School Begins September 15

Grades PreK—6 children will begin worship with their family at 10:00AM, and are dismissed to Sunday School on the lower level after the Opening Worship.

Register at GoodShepherdOwatonna.com.

Want to make a difference in a young child's life? We're looking for small group leaders for Sunday School. Learn more about our Sunday School program and volunteer at GoodShepherdOwatonna.com. Questions? Contact Heather: Heather@GSOwatonna.com

Good Shepherd Preschool
Knowing and Following Jesus
2024-2025 Registration is OPEN!



NURTURING THE WHOLE CHILD FOR FUTURE LEARNING SUCCESS

It's almost time for school! Explore class options at GoodShepherdOwatonna.com/**Preschool-Home**

Questions? Contact Heather Gleason, Preschool and Children's Director: Heather@GSOwatonna.com.

Noisy Offerings for 2024
 We're collecting coins for TWO ministries: *Christ's Care for Children: Kenya* where we sponsor a child and *Heifer International* which provides livestock and training to small-scale farmers around the world, as a long-term solution to hunger and poverty.

Drop your noisy coins in the container at the front of the worship center or at the offering table in the Gathering Area. Then pick up a donation jar in the Gathering Area to fill at home!

VBS 2024



EVENT CALENDAR

August 11: 10:00AM Installation of Heather Gleason as Preschool Director and Children's Minister

August 11: 6:30PM Dessert and Debrief with the Youth Mission Trip Team

August 12: PEW REMOVAL

August 13: 7:00PM Exec Team

August 18: 10AM Outdoor Service

August 20: PEW INSTALLATION

SAVE THE DATES:

September 8: Blessing of the School Year

September 11: First day of Youth Groups and Confirmation

September 15: First Day of Sunday School

September 21: LCMS District Convocation

September 26: 6:30PM Women's Bible Study: Nothing to Prove

September 28: New Member Seminar

Questions? Need Help?

Contact Us: info@GSOWatonna.com

Summer Office Hours: 9:00AM-2:00PM Tuesday-Thursday, or by appointment.

The Church Office will be closed Labor Day, September 2

Fall Office Hours: 9:00AM-2:00PM Monday-Thursday, or by appointment.

Senior Pastor: Greg Schlicker

Greg@GSOWatonna.com

Discipleship Pastor: Dan Borkenhagen

Dan@GSOWatonna.com

Preschool & Children's Ministry Director: Heather Gleason

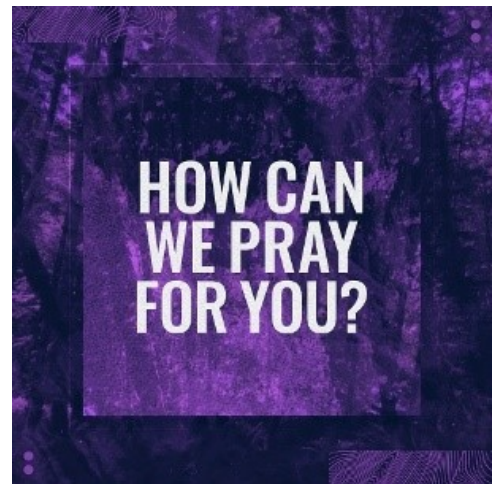
Heather@GSOWatonna.com

Youth Director: Kelly Gentz

Kelly@GSOWatonna.com

Office Coordinator: Kristi Westergaard

Kristi@GSOWatonna.com



Send prayers to our prayer team:

GoodShepherdPrayer@msn.com

You may also put prayer requests in the Prayer box in the Prayer Room, send us a note in the mail, or submit prayer requests online at

GoodShepherdOwatonna.com.

2500 7th Ave. NE Owatonna, MN 55060 info@GSOWatonna.com 507-451-4125

Follow Jesus. Share Hope. Live Love.